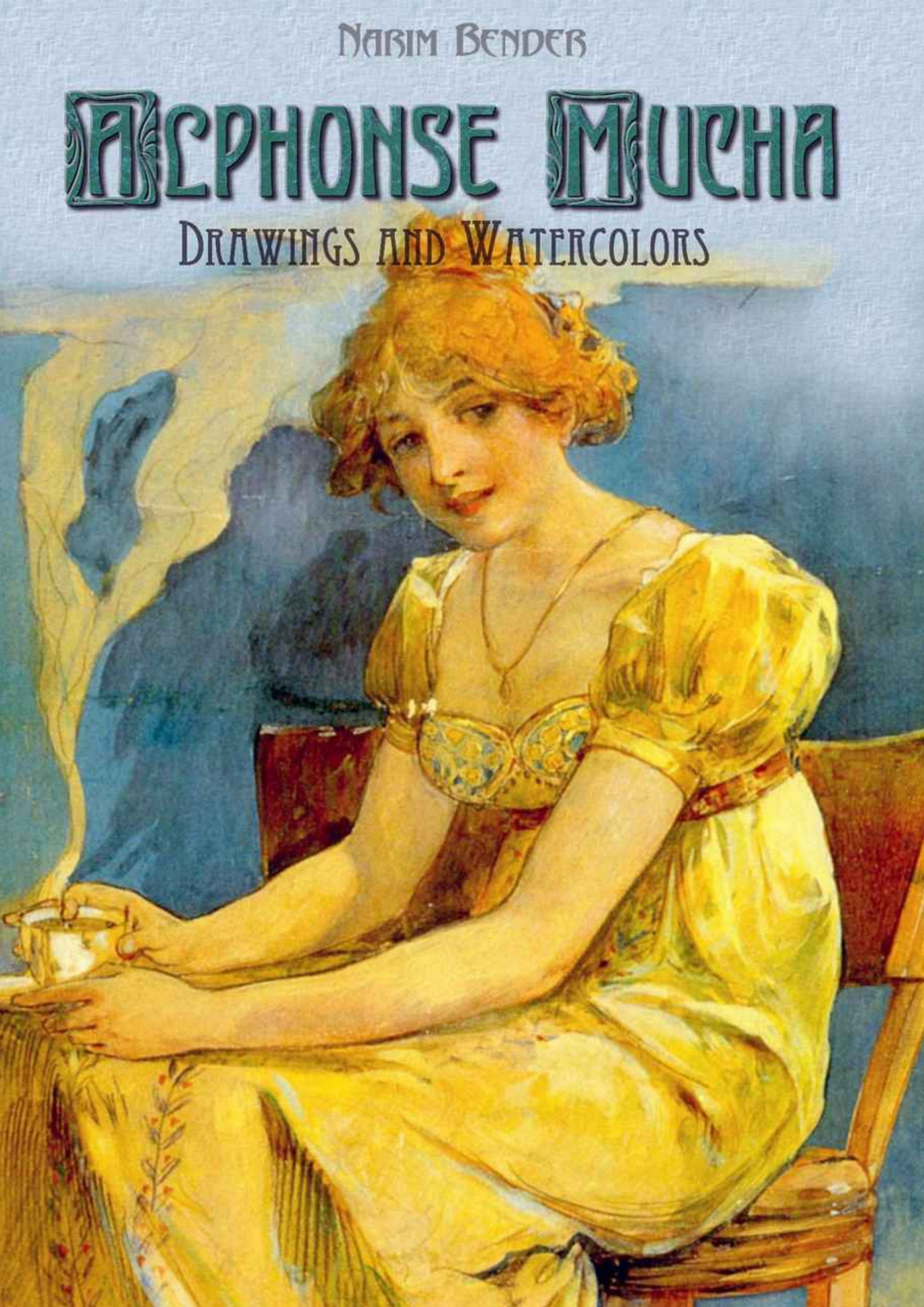
Narim Bender

Alphonse Mucha

Drawings and Watercolors



Alphonse Mucha: Drawings and Watercolors

By Narim Bender

First Edition

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Foreword

Alphonse Maria Mucha (1860 – 1939) was a Czech Art Nouveau painter and decorative artist, known best for his distinct style. He produced many drawings, paintings, illustrations, advertisements, postcards, and designs. The Mucha Style but became known as Art Nouveau ("new art"). Mucha's works frequently featured beautiful young women in flowing, vaguely Neoclassical-looking robes, and often surrounded by lush flowers which sometimes formed halos behind their heads. In contrast with contemporary poster makers he used pale pastel colors. Mucha's style was given international exposure by the 1900 Universal Exhibition in Paris. He decorated the Bosnia and Herzegovina Pavilion and collaborated with decorating the Austrian Pavilion. His Art Nouveau style was often imitated. The Art Nouveau style however, was one that Mucha attempted to disassociate himself from throughout his life; he always insisted that rather than maintaining any fashionable stylistic form, his paintings were entirely a product of himself and Czech art. He declared that art existed only to communicate a spiritual message, and nothing more; hence his frustration at the fame he gained by his commercial art, when he most wanted to concentrate on more artistic projects.

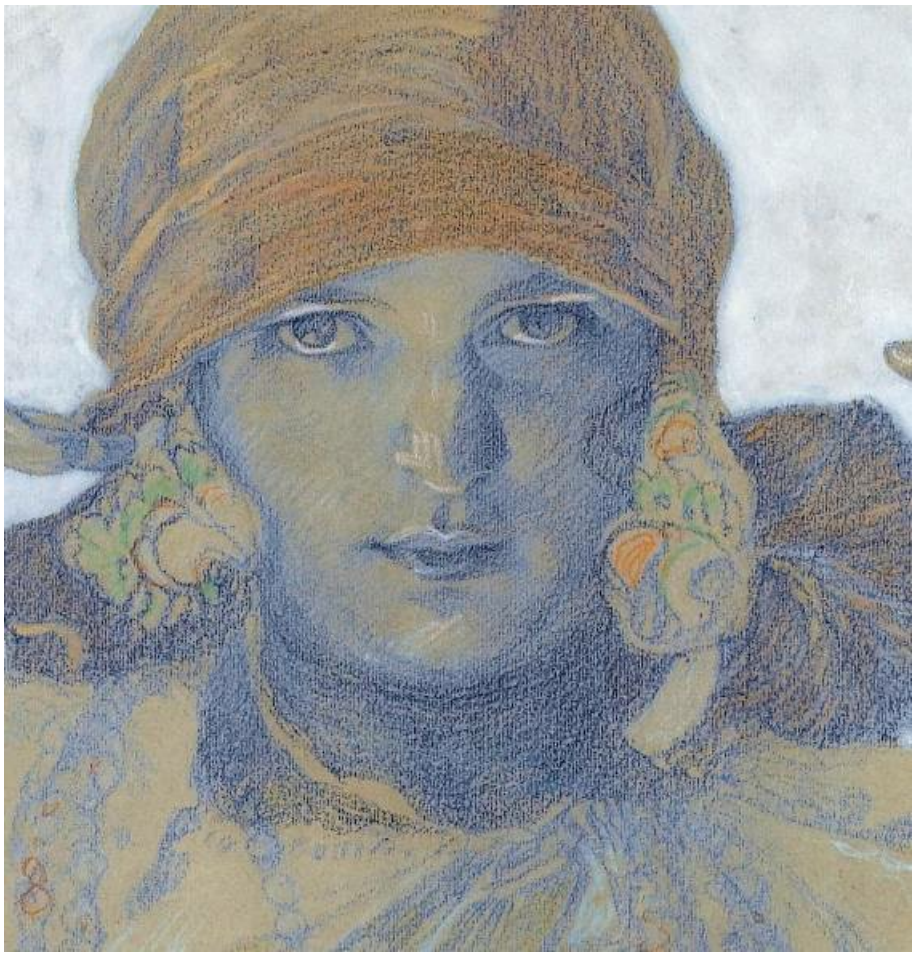
Although it enjoys great popularity today, at the time when he died, Mucha's style was considered outdated. His son, author Jiří Mucha, devoted much of his life to writing about him and bringing attention to his artwork. In his country, the new authorities were not interested in Mucha. His Slav Epic was rolled and stored for twenty-five years before being shown in Moravsky Krumlov, and a Mucha museum opened in Prague, managed by his grandson John Mucha. Mucha's work has continued to experience periodic revivals of interest for illustrators and artists. Interest in Mucha's distinctive style experienced a strong revival during the 1960s, with a general interest in Art Nouveau.

Drawings

A portrait of daughter Jaroslava, white paint over pencil on beige paper

Detail

Jaroslava Mucha, coloured pencils



Detail

Detail

Detail

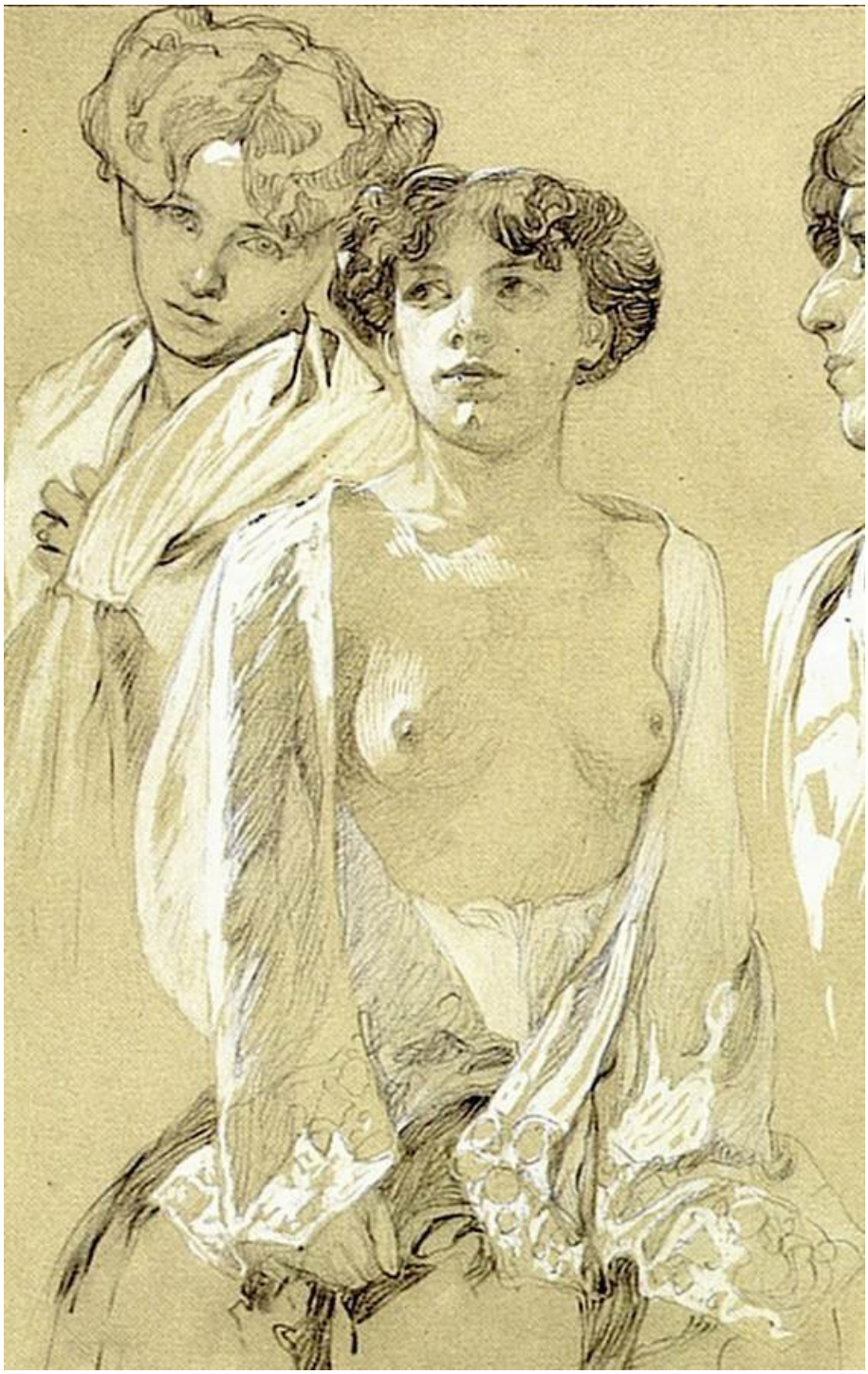
Seated woman with coffee cup, watercolor

Detail

Detail

A Study of a Sitting Man

Study, Original crayon & gouache on paper



Detail

Detail

Head of Sarah Bernhardt: Study for 'Lorenzaccio' ,1896

La Dame aux Camélias: designs for cover and interior of special programme, 1896

Design for Champagne Ruinart, Pencil, watercolour and gold leaf on paper, c. 1896

Design for a champagne poster, Charcoal and pastel on paper, c. 1896

Sarah Bernhardt: study of her full-standing figure, c.1896

L'Annee Qui Vient, red chalk on paper, 1897

Peonies, 1897, Ink and watercolour

Detail

Flower: final study for decorative panel, Pencil, ink and watercolour on paper, 1897

The Arts: study for 'Music',
Pencil and watercolour on paper, 1898

The Arts: study for 'Dance', Pencil and watercolour on paper, 1898

The Arts: study for 'Poetry', Pencil and watercolour on paper, 1898

The Arts: study for 'Painting', Pencil and watercolour on paper, 1898

Le Pater: early study for the 1st allegorical scene 'Our Father who art in Heaven', 1899

Bosnian Legends: Murcia - The Plague Lady, 1899

Bosnian Legends: Death of Hasanaga's Bride, 1899

Design for a display stand at the Paris Exhibition 1900, c.1899-1900

Military Camp in Winter, near a City on Fire, c.1899-1900

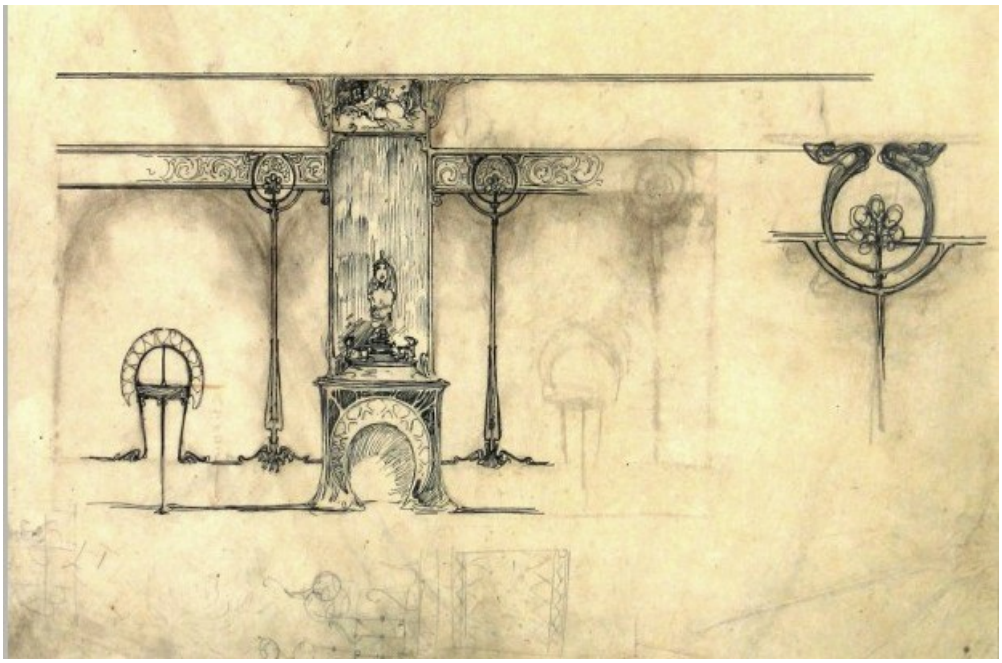
Bosnian Pavilion Restaurant at the Paris Exhibition 1900: design for the menu, Pencil and watercolour on paper, 1900

Study of Drapery, 1900

Sarah Bernhardt in the role of the Duc de Reichstadt in L'Aiglon, 1900

Designs for cutlery, c.1900

Designs for tableware, c.1900

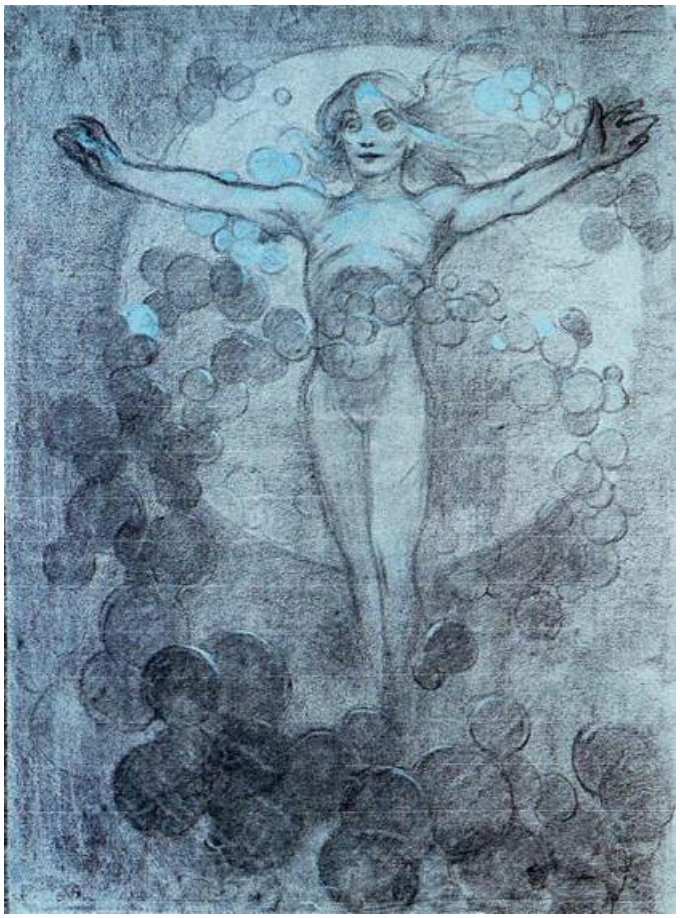


Interior of Boutique Fouquet: sketches of the fireplace with statue, mirror, display cabinet, and the ornamental details of the wall, c.1900

Interior of Boutique Fouquet: design for a wall-mounted display cabinet with statuette and mirror, c.1900

Interior of Boutique Fouquet: design for the fireplace with statuettes, mirror, and the ornamental details of the wall, c.1900

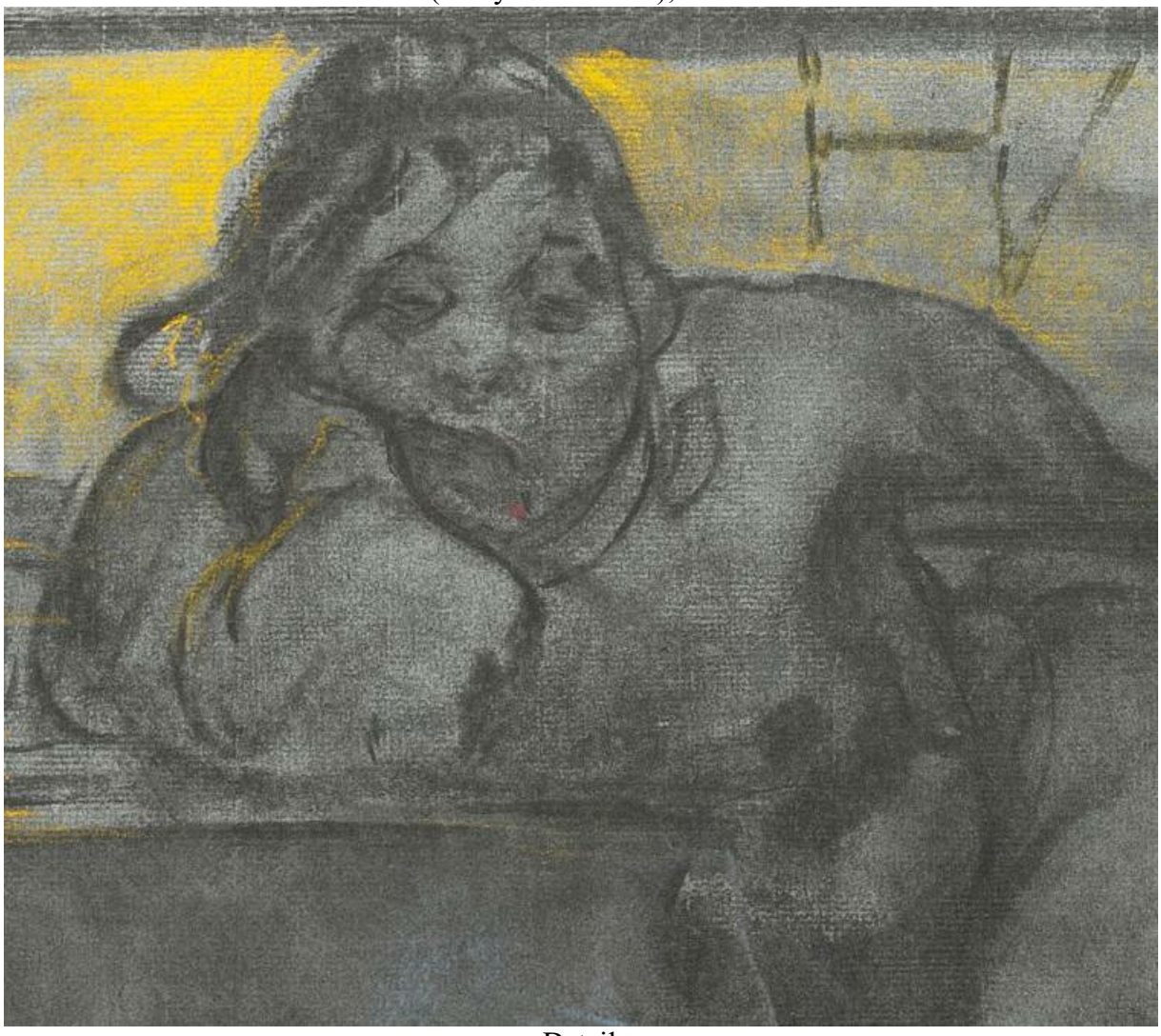
Interior and furniture designs, c.1900



Standing Figure, charcoal, pastel, 1900

Weeping Girl, pastel, 1900

Absinth (Study of a Woman), 1900 - 1905

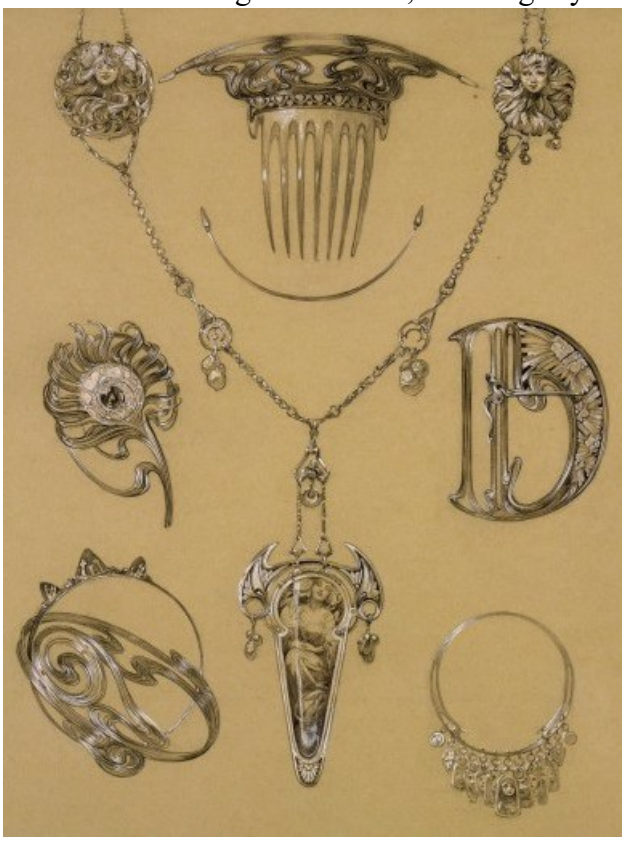


Detail

Documents décoratifs: final study for Plate 67, 1901-1902

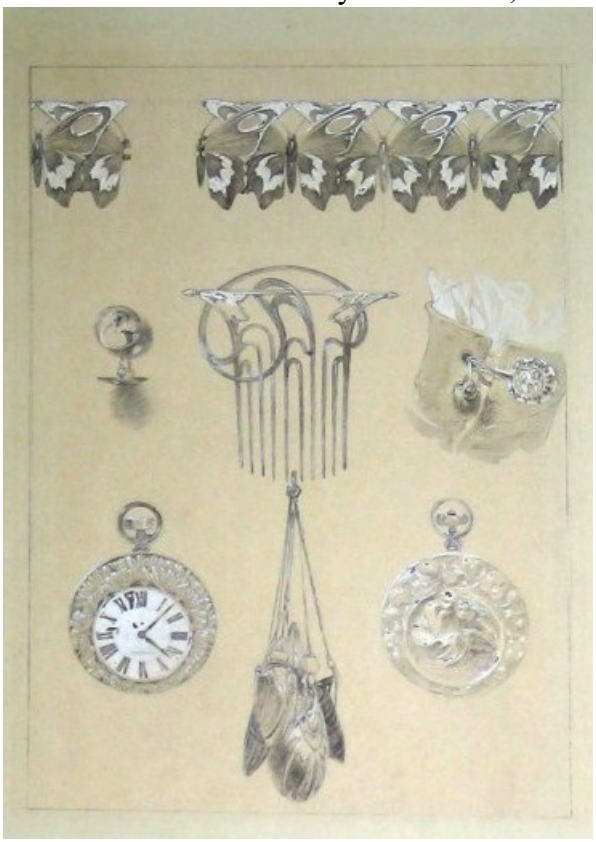
Documents décoratifs: final study for Plate 63, 1901-1902

Documents décoratifs: line drawing for Plate 33, featuring lily motifs, 1901-1902



Documents décoratifs: final study for Plate 49, 1901-1902

Documents décoratifs: final study for Plate 50, 1901-1902



Documents décoratifs: designs for a watch and accessories, 1901-1902

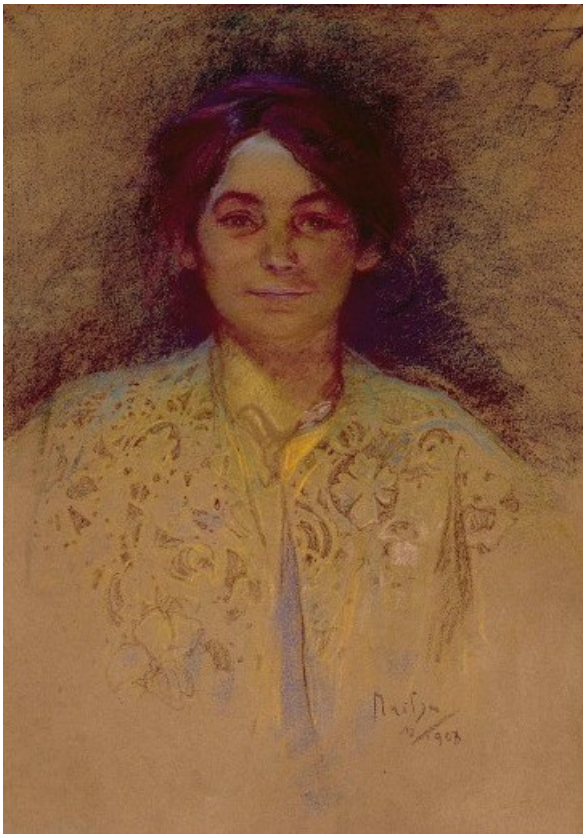
The Moon and the Stars: study for 'The Pole Star', Ink and watercolour on paper, 1902

The Moon and the Stars: study for 'The Morning Star', Ink and watercolour on paper, 1902

The Moon and the Stars: study for 'The Moon', Ink and watercolour on paper, 1902

The Moon and the Stars: study for 'The Evening Star', Ink and watercolour on paper, 1902

The Girl of Ivancice, watercolor, 1903



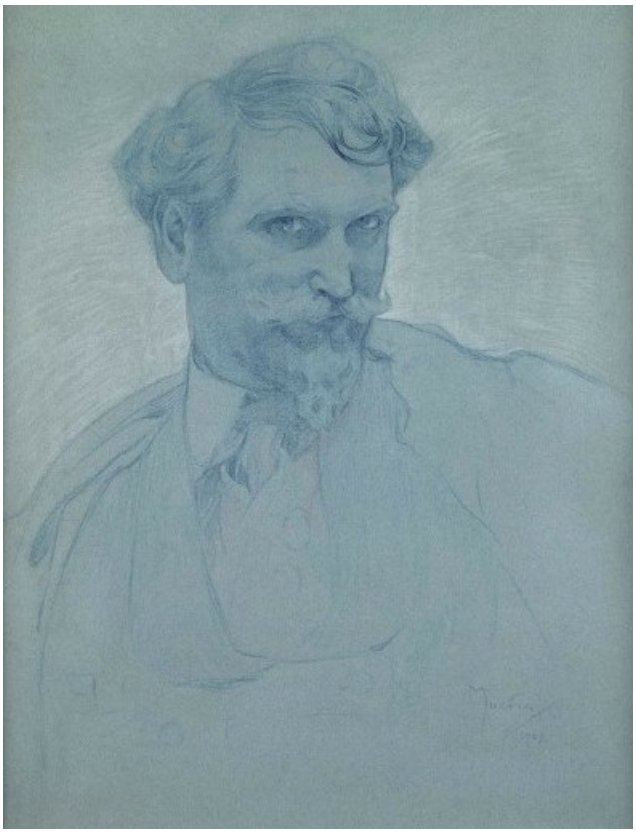
Portrait of Marie Chytilová (Maruška), Mucha's Future Wife, pastel, 1903

Mistletoe: Portrait of Mme. Mucha, watercolor, 1903

Figures décoratives: final study for Plate 3, Pencil and white on paper, 1904-1905

Figures décoratives: final study for Plate14, Pencil and white on paper, 1904-1905

Choirboys at Petrov Church, Brno, Watercolour on cardboard, 1905



Self-portrait, Blue and white crayon on blue Ingres paper, 1907

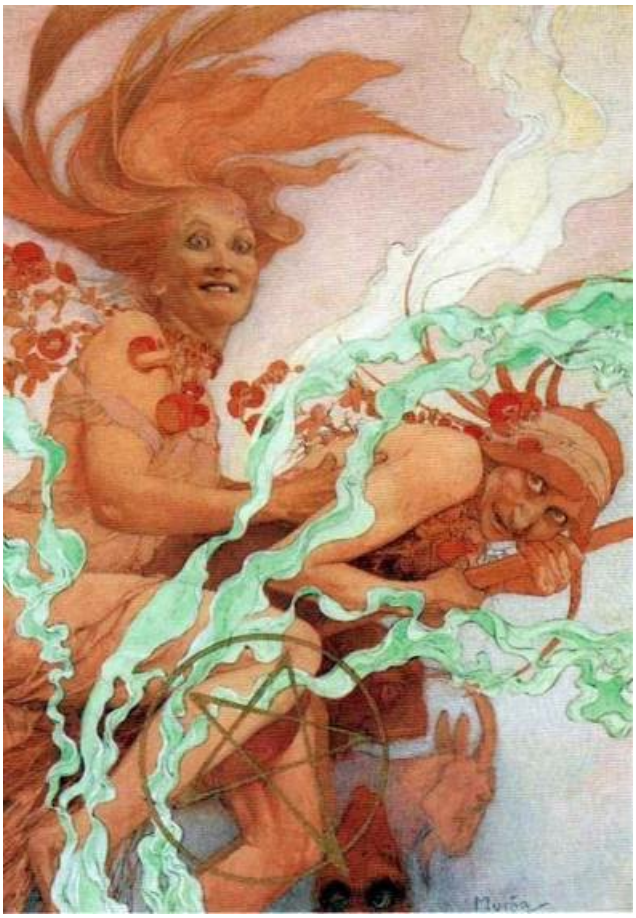
'By force towards freedom, with love towards unity!': study for the mural 'By Own Strength II', 1910-1911

A Woman in a Folk Costume, 1912

Study for 'The Slav Epic cycle' No.19: The Abolition of Serfdom in Russia, Watercolour and gouache on paper, 1913-1914

Portrait of Woman, c. mid 1910s - 1925

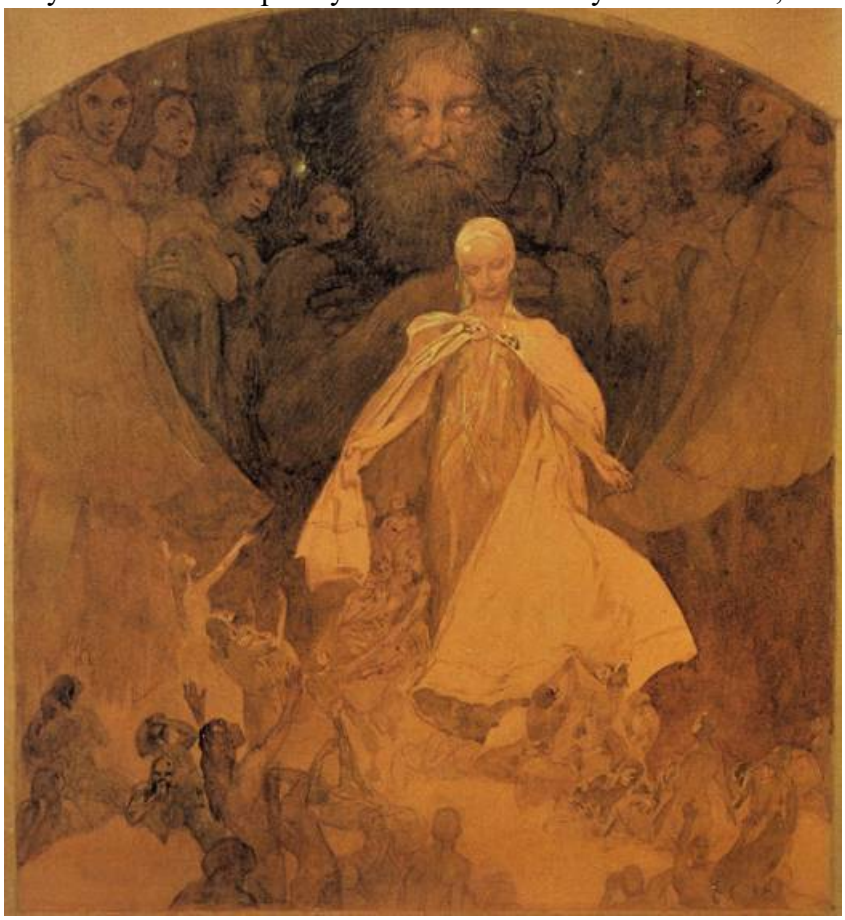
Winter Night study, 1920



Original for 'Heart's International' October gouache, crayon & watercolour on paper 40 x 28.5 cm, 1922

Design for 'Heart's International' gouache, crayon & watercolour 55 x 38 cm, 1922

Study for 'The Slav Epic' cycle No.17: The Holy Mount Athos, 1926



1936-38, The Age of Wisdom pencil & watercolour 35 x 32 cm

Study for 'Spring'

Allegory of Spring

Contemplation

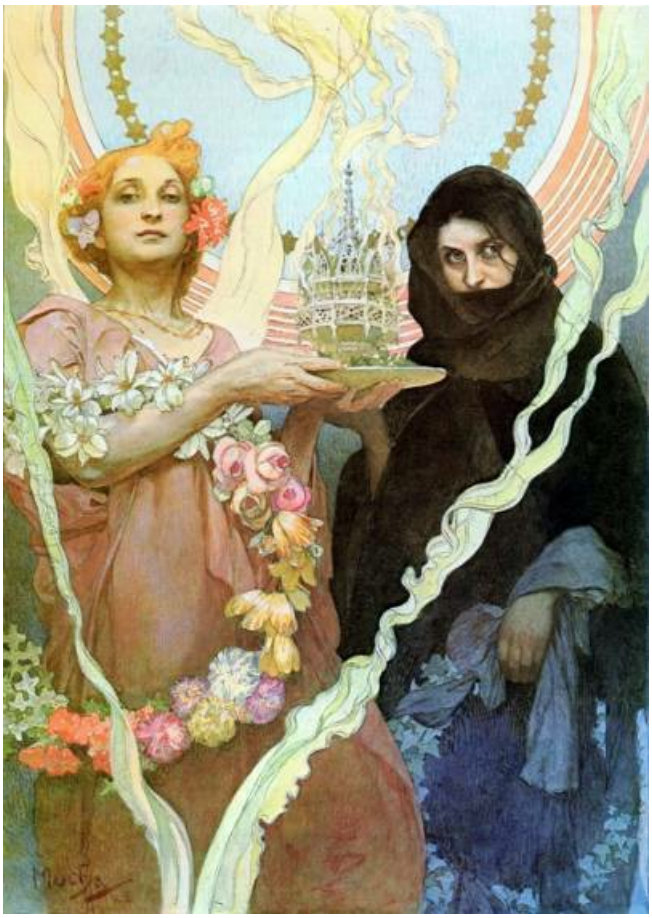
Carnation

Iris

Head of a Girl

Envisage

Daughter



Design for 'Heart's International' watercolour

Study of a Woman Sitting in an Armchair, indian ink

Two Standing Women

A Study of a Girl, pastel

Woman with Headscarf and Star Medallion

Study of two Koi Carp

Sketch for Figurs Decoratif

A Mother and Child Feeding Birds

Study for a kneeling Slav

A Study of a Girl’s Head, ink on paper

Fleurs De Pavot, Watercolor and ink

Through the keyhole, Pen and watercolour

A Likeness of Madame Deschamps

Young Woman

Woman Bending Over

Jaroslava Mucha

Art Nouveau Illustration

Four Seasons study